

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1 1. In an improved garment bag having back, front, top,
2 bottom and sides, a handle, and a suspension member to support
3 hooks of clothes hangers near a top of a clothes storage cavity in
4 the garment bag, the improvement comprising:

5 a top plate of garment bag substantially vertically disposed
6 above the clothes storage cavity;

7 a cantilevered support arm formed from an upper portion of the
8 top plate;

9 a substantially horizontal open ended slot in the top plate
10 having a width slightly greater than a diameter of a closet bar and
11 a length beginning at a side of the top plate and extending
12 substantially to a vertical centerline of the garment bag; and

13 a retainer to hold together the clothes hanger hooks at the
14 suspension member.

1 2. The improved garment bag of claim 1 in which the retainer
2 is a retaining strap that holds the hooks of the clothes hangers
3 together in substantially an identical position as when the clothes
4 hangers are slid on the closet bar into the garment bag in packing
5 it.

1 3. The improved garment bag of claim 2 in which the
2 retaining strap is fixedly attached at a first end to the top plate
3 and a second end is laid on top of the closet bar over which hooks

1 of clothes hangers are slid when packing the garment bag and then
2 the second end is attached to the first end using a hook and loop
3 fastener.

1 4. The improved garment bag of claim 1 in which the back of
2 the garment bag is a spine depending downwardly from the top plate
3 and comprised of a series of substantially horizontal ribs having
4 a pivoting connection between the ribs.

1 5. The improved garment bag of claim 4 which further
2 comprises at least one substantially horizontal track in selected
3 ribs, and at least one clip resiliently biased in a normally closed
4 configuration and slidable in a track.

1 6. The improved garment bag of claim 5 in which multiple
2 tracks and multiple clips serve to hold clothes supported on
3 clothes hangers laterally stable to minimize wrinkling of clothes
4 when the garment bag is closed, folded and transported.

1 7. The improved garment bag of claim 6 in which clothes are
2 packed in order of increasing size starting with a smallest item
3 such that each successive garment overlies its predecessor so clips
4 will reach the edges of each garment to hold each laterally stable.

1 8. The improved garment bag of claim 5 in which clips are
2 comprised of a base that is slidably engaged in a track, a top jaw

1 plate pivotally connected to the base, an upper jaw connected to
2 the upper jaw plate, a lower jaw connected to the base, resilient
3 biasing means to maintain normally closed pressure between the
4 jaws, fabric protecting material on fabric contacting surfaces of
5 the jaws, and which clips are rotatable in a plane parallel to a
6 plane of the rib.

1 9. The improved garment bag of claim 5 which further
2 comprises at least one additional spine to provide more tracks and
3 clips to accommodate additional clothes inside the garment bag.

1 10. In an improved garment bag having back, front, top,
2 bottom and sides, a handle, and a suspension member to support
3 hooks of clothes hangers near a top of a clothes storage cavity in
4 the garment bag, the improvement comprising:

5 a spine forming the back of the garment bag and having a
6 plurality of ribs with a pivoting connection between the ribs;

7 at least one substantially horizontal track in selected ribs;

8 and

9 at least one clip resiliently biased in a normally closed
10 configuration and slid able within the track.

1 11. The improved garment bag of claim 10 in which multiple
2 tracks and multiple clips serve to hold laterally stable to
3 minimize wrinkling of clothes disposed on clothes hangers when the
4 garment bag is closed, folded and transported.

1 12. The improved garment bag of claim 11 in which clothes are
2 packed in order of increasing size starting with a smallest item
3 such that each successive garment overlies its predecessor so clips
4 will reach the edges of each garment to hold each laterally stable.

1 13. The improved garment bag of claim 10 in which clips are
2 comprised of a base that is slidably engaged in a track, a top jaw
3 plate pivotally connected to the base, an upper jaw connected to
4 the upper jaw plate, a lower jaw connected to the base, resilient
5 biasing means to maintain normally closed pressure between the
6 jaws, fabric protecting material on fabric contacting surfaces of
7 the jaws, and which clips are rotatable in a plane parallel to a
8 plane of the rib.

1 14. The improved garment bag of claim 10 which further
2 comprises at least one additional spine to provide more tracks and
3 clips to accommodate additional clothes inside the garment bag.

1 15. The improved garment bag of claim 10 which further
2 comprises,

3 a top plate of the garment bag substantially vertically
4 disposed above the clothes storage cavity;

5 a cantilevered support arm formed from an upper portion of the
6 top plate;

7 a substantially horizontal open ended slot in the top plate

1 having a width substantially equal to a diameter of a closet bar,
2 and a length beginning at a side of the top plate and extending
3 substantially to a vertical centerline of the garment bag; and
4 a retainer to hold together the clothes hanger hooks at the
5 suspension member.

1 16. The improved garment bag of claim 15 in which the
2 retainer is a retaining strap that holds the hooks of the clothes
3 hangers together in substantially an identical position as when the
4 clothes hangers are slid on the closet bar into the garment bag in
5 packing it.

1 17. The improved garment bag of claim 16 in which the
2 retaining strap is fixedly attached at a first end to the top plate
3 and a second end is laid on top of the closet bar over which hooks
4 of clothes hangers are slid when packing the garment bag and then
5 the second end is attached to the first end using a hook and loop
6 fastener.